

26 August 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

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When Mr. [REDACTED] of ID was at [REDACTED] on 19 August 1952, Mr. [REDACTED] at the project complained about some safe cabinets which had been delivered there. These are three Shaw-Walker safe filing cabinets with a three-way combination lock in the top drawer; the other three drawers are locked by a plunger bar, the handle to which is inside the top drawer. To lock the cabinet, it is necessary to push down the handle of the plunger bar, doing so each time the cabinet is to be locked. In other words, two separate manual operations are necessary each time the cabinet is to be locked, instead of the usual one, and hence there are two security hazards involved instead of one. Besides this, the cabinets have been found to be unsatisfactory otherwise, to the extent that the locking devices, even when operated, do not always work.

On 22 August 1952, [REDACTED] of the Physical Security Branch/SD, stated that he was familiar with this particular Shaw-Walker safe filing cabinet. He said that after consideration of its features and tests of its operation, I&S some months ago had disapproved it for use in the Agency on the grounds that it was an unsatisfactory type of equipment representing an unnecessarily great security hazard. He said also that he understood that the Department of Defense has procured a number of these cabinets but, after experience with their use, had disapproved them. Defense now is getting rid of the cabinets it has.

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On 26 August 1952 the foregoing information was given to [REDACTED], assistant personnel officer of the Office of Training, who attends to such matters on project [REDACTED]. He will take steps to have the three cabinets replaced with those of the type approved by I&S.

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